(a) whether complaints have been received about the mismanagement of the electricity, water and catering facilities being provided to passengers at various railway stations in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken to improve and expand the passenger amenities particularly at Shahganj junction and Akbarpur stations and to streamline their management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, there have been complaints of non-availability of electricity at a few stations due to power supply interruptions from State Electricity Board. The stations where power supply is from rural feeders are prone to power interruptions Concerned Railways take prompt action by deputing their staff for follow up with Uttat Pradesh Electricity Board officers for restoration of supply in each case. Regarding catering, some complaints about quality of food and service have been received. Steps taken/proposed to be taken for improving catering services include modernisation of base kitchens/ refreshment rooms, training to the staff, intensive inspections and penal action against those found responsible for lapses.

As regards Shahganj Junction and Akbarpur railway stations the electrical amenities provided at these stations are as per norms and are considered adequate The work of replacement of existing over head tank with RCC over head tank at Shahganj junction has been taken up to improve water supply. A decision has also been taken to expand and relocate the refreshment room at Shahganj. Catering facilities at Akbarpur station are considered adequate.

[English]

Conversion of Rupsa-Bangriposi Line

4524. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of representations received since 1989 regarding proposed conversion of the Rupsa-Bangriposi narrow gauge line into broad-gauge and its extension to link up the Tatanagar-Badampahar broad gauge line at Gorumahisani railway station of South-Eastern Railway;

(b) whether the proposed project is situated in a backward area and qualifies to be considered on grounds of development of infrastructure of backward areas;

(c) if so the reasons for its non-inclusion amongst approved projects; and

(d) the names of the railway lines opened during the last five year plan whose returns continue to be uneconomic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) (a) 11

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Unremunerativeness of the project and constraint of resources.

(d) Of the new lines opened during the Seventh Plan for which annual financial review has been carried out, Santragachi-Bargachia and Tupkadih-Talgaria have shown negative financial returns.